(c) what is the outcome of India's efforts to solve the problem of shortage in supply of arms, defence equipment and spares already contracted from the Soviet Union; and

(d) whether Government are contracting directly the Republics which were so far part of the Soviet in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The country's defence requirements are met from diverse sources abroad and through indigenous Industry.

(b) During discussions between the PM and the French Persident, it was agreed that there was good scope for mutually beneficial cooperation in Defence between France and India.

(c) and (d) During External Affairs Minister's visit to Moscow in November, 91, he was assured by President Gorbachev and other senior Soviet leaders that the USSR stands by all its commitments to India. This was confirmtd by President Yeltsin of the Russian Federation.

Applications for deep sea fishing from Andhra Pradesh

2123. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications from Andhra Pradesh for deep sea fishing pending for approval; and

(b) since how long these are pending and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) Forty six applications from entrepreneurs in Andhra Pradesh for deep sea fishing through operation of chartered foreign fishing vessels are pending since August, 1989. As the Charter Policy is under review, final decision on these applications is yet to be taken.

Deep sea fishing

2124. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Economic Times' dated 18th November, 1991 captioned "Move to treat deep-sea fishinfi at par with shipping settled";

(b) whether a new comprehensive rehabilitation proposal for deep-sea fishing industry has been cleared at the meeting of the impowered Committee;

(c) what are the main points of distinction between the new package and the rehabilitation package already in force;

(d) the number of units which have accepted the old package; and

(e) what steps are being taken to extend the terms of the new package to all units who have been declared in need for rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir. Government's attention has been drawn to the said news item which appeared in the 'Economic Times' dated November, 18, 1991.

(b) No new rehabilitation proposal for deep sea fishing industry has been considered by the Empowered Committee. The rehabilitation scheme currently in force for the deep sea fishing industry is the one which was announced by the Government of India on April 4, 1991.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) 52 fishing companies have evinced interest in the rehabilitation scheme. Of this, 32 companies have submitted rehabilitation proposals/or otherwise complied with the preconditions of the rehabilitation scheme. Of this, the Governmtnt of India has approved proposals in respect of 30 Companies.